REPORT

KO

NATIVE PAPERS

FOR THE

Week ending the 25th May 1895.

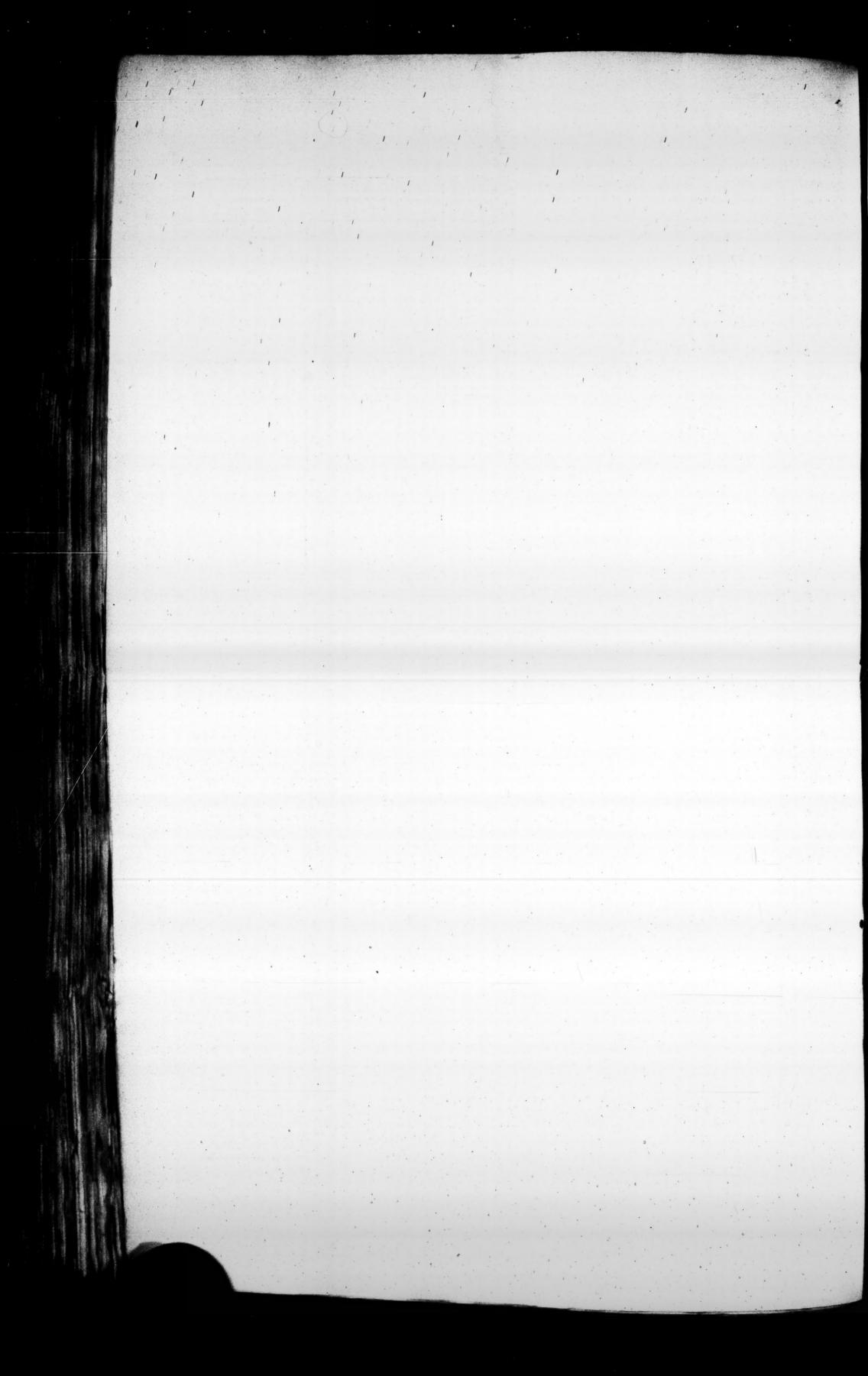
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LIST OF NEWSPAPERS.

To.	Names of Newspapers.	Place of publication,		Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week,	RHMARKS,
	Bengali.	CALCUTTA.	T			
	Tri-monthly.					
100						1 - 3 - 1
1	"Abodh Bodhini"	Calcutta		About 677		
	Weekly.					
		Ditto		., 5,000	17th May 1895.	
5	"Banganivasi"	D:44-	:::	20,000	18th ditto.	
3	"Hitavadi"	Ditto		., 4,000	17th ditto.	
	"Mihir"	Titte			15th ditto.	
3	"Samay"	Ditto		,, 4,000	17th ditto.	
	"Sanjivani"	Ditto	•••	900	18th ditto.	
	"Sudhakar"	Ditto	***	,, 3,000		
				1.		
	Daily.					
	"Banga Vidya Prakashika"	Ditto		,, 200	21st to 23rd May 1895.	
		D:44-	. 1	900	19th to 23rd May 1895.	
3	"Dainik-o-Samachar Chan- drika."					
3	"Samvad Prabhakar"	Ditto		" 500	20th to 22nd May 1895.	
4	"Samvad Purnachandrodaya"	Ditto		,, 200	22nd May 1895.	
5	"Sulabh Dainik"	Ditto		,, 1,000	18th and 20th to 23rd May 1895.	
			1		Maj 1000.	
	HINDI.		- 1	1		
	Weekly.					
	"Bharat Mitra"	Ditto		,, 800	16th May 1895.	
3	"Hindi Bangavasi"	Ditto		,, 9,000	20th ditto.	
3	"Uchit Vakta"	Ditto		*****	11th ditto.	
	70-12-					
	Daily.					
1	"Bhárat Mitra"	Ditto			17th, 18th, 21st, and 22nd	
					May 1895.	
	URDU.					The state of the s
	Weekly.		77			
	Weekly.					
1	"Darussaltanat and Urdu	Ditto		About 400	16th May 1895.	
•	Guide." "General and Gauhariasfi"	Ditto		,, 300	16th ditto.	
2	General and Gadnariash	Ditto	***	,, 300	10th ditto.	
	BENGALI.					
	Danuau.	BURDWAN DIVISIO	on.			
	Fortnightly.					
	2 cromgnang.					
1	"Bankura Darpan"	Bankura		., 500	16th May 1895.	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1
2	"Ulubaria Darpan"	Ttl-1		,, 298	10th May 1000.	1
	•					
	Weekly.					1
1	"Burdwan Sanjivani"	Burdwan		350 to 400	14th May 1895.	1-6
2	"Chinsura Vartavaha"	Chinsura	•••	500		
3	"Darsak" "Education Gazette"	Hearly.	•••	754	19th ditto. 17th ditto.	
		1	•••	109	True divo.	1
	BENGALI.					
	Monthly.	PRESIDENCY DIVIS	ION.			
	1 "Ghosak"	Khulna	•••	350		
						-
	Weekly.					1
	1 "Murshidabad Hitaishi" .	Murshidabad	•••	280	15th May 1895.	
	2 "Murshidabad Pratinidhi"	Berhampore	•••	200		
	3 Pratikar	Ditto	•••		17th ditto.	A STATE OF THE STA

No.	Names of Newspapers.	, Place of publication.	Reported number of subscribers.	Dates of papers received and examined for the week.	REMARKS.	
,	URIYA.	ORISSA DIVISION.	-1	ser la s		
	Monthly.					
1 2	"Shikshabandhu" "Utkalprabha"	Cuttack Mayurbhunj	3	•••••	Only six copies have been issued since the paper was re-	
1	Weekly. "Samvad Vahika"	Balasore	190	, O	vived in January 1894. Some 200 copies of each issue	
2	"Uriya and Navasamvad"	Ditto	309		are said to have	
3	"Utkal Dipika"	Cuttack	412		been circulated, but no subscribers have	
4	"Sambalpur Patriot"	D	•••••		been registered. This paper is said to have some circular	
	HINDI. Monthly.	PATNA DIVISION.			tion in the Division, but the number of subscribers could not be ascertained.	
	" D" D 11- "	Bankipur	500			
1	Weekly.	Bankipur	500			
1	"Aryavarta"	Dinapur	1,000		•	
	URDU.					
	Weekly.					
1 2	"Akhbar-i-Al Punch" "Gaya Punch" "Mehre Monawar"	Bankipur Gaya	500 400	16th May 1895. 13th ditto.		
3	"Mehre Monawar"	Muzaffarpur	150			
	Bengali. Weekly.	RAJSHAHI DIVISION.				
1 2	"Bagura Darpan" "Hindu Ranjika"	m "11 m 11 11	283	17th May 1895. 15th ditto.		
3	"Rangpur Dikprakash" HINDI.	17 1 D	300			
1	Monthly. "Darjeeling Mission ke Masil Samachar Patrika."	Darjeeling	150		It is said that 550 copies of the paper are printed each	
	Bengali.	DACCA DIVISION.			month. Out of this number 150 copies	
1	Fortnightly.			41011 15 4007	are distributed among the subscri-	
•	"Kasipur Nivasi"	Kasipur, Barisal	280	12th May 1895.	bers and the rest sold to the public at three pies per copy.	
1	"Charu Mihir"		900	14th ditto.		
3	"Dacca Prakash" "Saraswat Patra"	D:44-	450 250	18th ditto.		
4	"Vikrampur"	Lambaiamaha Dassa	500			
	English and Bengali. Weekly.					
1	"Dacca Gazette" BENGALI.	. Dacca CHITTAGONG DIVISION		20th May 1895.		
1	Fortnightly.					
	Weekly.	Comilia	•			
1	"Sansodhini"	· Chittagong	. 120			
	Bengali. Fortnightly.	Assam.				
. 1	"Paridarshak"	Sylhet	240			
2	"Srihattavasi"	Ditto	* 160	For the second fortnight of Baisakh, 1302 B.S.	information supplied	
			,		by the Deputy Post- master-General.	
					Assam.	



I.—Foreign Politics.

From the resolution that was adopted at the meeting which was held lately at St. James' Hall, London, under the Presi-The Armenian question. dentship of the Duke of Argyll, to draw the attention of the British Ministry to the Armenian atrocities, the Darussaltanat and Urdu Guide of the 16th May concludes that France, Russia, and Great Britain will declare war against Turkey if the latter does not give up her claim to the Armenian provinces.

2. According to the Bangavasi of the 18th May, it does not look well in BANGAVASI, the eye of the people of India that the Amir's son,

who is an honoured guest and is going to visit The reception of the Amir's son in England. England as the representative of his august father, should be obliged to see the Queen-Empress in her residence in Scotland. Instead of making her guest follow her, the Queen should have given him an

audience in the capital of the United Kingdom. 3. What is the Government going to do with Chitral?—asks the same paper. It was at first given out that the sole object The Chitral question. of the Chitral expedition was to relieve Dr. Robert-

son and the British garrison under him in that place. That object is now achieved, but the army of expedition is still marching in full force towards Chitral. Why? Does not this prove that the Government is resolved to be in close touch with Chitral? To annex Chitral to British territory will, however, increase the chances of frontier disturbances. That is at least the commonsense view of the matter, but the Government is acting as it thinks best. The Indian people would have nothing to say against the policy of the Government had not they had to pay the cost of suppressing the risings of the frontier tribes, which its Chitral policy will very likely make more frequent in future.

II.—Home Administration.

(a)—Police.

4. The Hitavádí of the 17th May has received information of a horrible incident from Rathbari-Chaksohardi, within the An outrage on a woman in the jurisdiction of the Kaliachak post-office, in the Malda district. At about midnight of the 16th

April last, a number of men forcibly took away the daughter-in-law of a certain Muchi, leaving the man and his son (the girl's husband) tied hand and foot. Four of the men remained behind to keep guard there, while four others took the girl away. After some time the second set returned to keep guard, and the first set went away. It is said that the outrage committed on the girl brought about abortion, and caused inflammation of her breasts and other parts of her body. It is a pity that such a horrible affair could take place without opposition under British rule. For fear of bringing ruin upon themselves the injured party have made no complaint before the police or the Magistrate; and the police are too fast asleep to take notice of such an incident themselves.

5. The Sanjivani of the 18th May draws the attention of the police authorities to the conduct of Mr. Clarke, District The District Superintendent of Superintendent of Police, Sibsagar, who is employ-Police, Sibsagar. ing police constables in building the bungalow of

the Assistant Conservator of Forests in direct violation of the provisions of the Police Manual. He has also acted in contravention of the Police Manual by erecting on a very recent occasion temporary sheds and pavilions on the Sibsagar race-ground with the help of the police constables.

6. The Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika of the 20th May says that the Faridpur police is going beyond the bounds of the Police The working of the Police Act Act in its misdirected zeal to keep the peace. in Faridpur. Under the provisions of the new Police Act, the

police has the power to stop music in the street if there be any apprehension of a breach of the public peace therefrom. The police, however, has no power to interfere with the playing of music in private residences. But the Faridpur police has stopped music even in private houses, and is prosecuting people who are bold enough to violate its unlawful order. The local Deputy Magistrate,

DARUSSALTANAT, AND URDU GUIDE, May 16th, 1895.

May 18th, 1895.

BANGAVASL

HITAVADI, May 17th, 1895.

SANJIVANI May 18th, 1895.

DAINIE-O-SAMACHAR CHANDRIKA, May 20th, 1895.

however, is acquitting the defendants in all such cases. But nothing daunted, the Faridpur police is persisting in its unlawful course; thus interfering in many instances with the religion of the people by stopping music even where it is a part and parcel of their religious ceremonies. The public long ago anticipated such acts of police oppression as the inevitable consequence of the new Police Act, and they did not hesitate to speak out when the Act was under considera. tion. Seme time ago the same Faridpur police made fifty panchayats of the district serve as special constables on the ground that they had made a breach of the public peace possible by neglecting to appoint village chaukidars in due Very elastic, indeed, is the faculty of the Indian police to interpret the law so as to make it suit its purpose best, and one may perhaps one day hear that the police of a district has made all who have made default in paying the chaukidari tax serve as special constables on the ground that, according to the provisions of the Police Act, they have made a breach of the public peace possible. The same style of reasoning may one day give the country the precious opportunity of seeing the people of a whole district in the uniform of a special constable. In fact, a similar flimsy pretext of the possibility of a breach of the peace led a Magistrate of Nadia, a few years ago, to make a number of gentlemen serve as special constables. There should be an inquiry into the truth of the charge against the Faridpur police. Will not Sir Charles act even once in a manner which will be consistent with his dignified position? Has he made it a point to overlook the faults of the executive simply because it is the native press which points out those faults and protests against them? If that is his resolution, we should advise him to keep himself under proper medical observation and treatment. When a man "cuts off his own nose to spite another," the best thing to do with him is to place him in a lunatic asylum.

DACCA GAZETTE, May 20th, 1895.

7. The Dacca Gazette of the 20th May learns from the Charu Mihir that the ruffians who maltreated the "Ashtami Snan" Acts of lawlessness during the pilgrims are not being adequately punished on account "Ashtami Snan" festival. of the absence of proper police investigation, and the

consequent want of evidence to convict them at all, or to convict them on the more serious counts of the charge. If the ruffians thus manage to escape, then woe to such pilgrims in future. Better that these ruffians were not prosecuted at all than that being prosecuted they should escape punishment, or should be let off lightly punished. It is to be hoped that the local police. as well as the inhabitants of the villages where the ruffians committed their heinous acts, will exert themselves more vigorously to bring the offenders to justice.

(b)—Working of the Courts.

CHARU MIHIR, May 14th, 1895.

CHARU MIHIB.

most impartial and conscientions manner.

The Fordyce Commission.

The Charu Mihir of the 14th May has learnt that both Mr. Bolton and Babu Peary Mohan Banerji, the members of the Fordyce Commission, are doing their work in a

9. The same paper says that in reviewing Mr. Radice's proceedings in the cases against the police, which he disposed of under Mr. Radice invested with new Mr. Earle's orders, the High Court expressed the opinion that Mr. Radice was quite unfit to exercise judicial powers. But, strangely enough, after the expression of such an opinion by the High Court, Mr. Radice has been vested with the powers of a Subdivisional Magistrate in regard to the Iswarganj and Fulpur thanas. So long he was deciding only those cases which were made over to him by the two Magistrates in the Sadar; henceforward he will be able to keep on his own file every case he likes. Has Mr. Radice been vested with new powers in pursuance of the policy of showing disrespect to the High Court, which obtains under Sir Charles Elliott's regimé?

CHARU MIHIR.

10. The same paper says that great inconvenience will be caused to people in the northern and eastern extremities of Sherpur The proposal to abolish the Sherpur Munsifi in the Mymensingh if Mr. Harding's proposal to abolish the Sherpur Munsifi, in the Mymensingh district, and to amalgamate its jurisdiction with that of the Jamalpur Munsifi, is carried out. Twice before, namely, once in 1877 and a second time in 1891, such a proposal was made, but on both occasions it was negatived by the High Court. The number

of suits instituted in the Sherpur Munsifi has, of late years, vastly increased, so much so that last year it rose very nearly to two thousand. Accordingly, the Sherpur Zamindars' Association has submitted a memorial to the High Court, pointing out the inadvisability of carrying into effect Mr. Harding's proposal. It is hoped that the High Court will carefully consider the objections raised in the petition, and negative the proposal.

11. The same paper gives the following case as showing how Babu Prabha Chandra Sinha, Second Sadar Munsif, in the Mymen-

A complaint against a Munsif in singh district, has made it a practice to strike off the Mymensingh district. and dismiss cases on trifling grounds :-

delays of justice.

In rent suit No. 306 of 1894, the plaintiff having submitted a petition through his agent for the introduction of some new defendants, an order was passed for verifying the petition. A duly verified petition, supported by an affidavit by the agent, was accordingly submitted. But still the Munsif dismissed the case, saying that his order had not been obeyed. In the order sheet he wrote that the plaintiff was playing fast and loose with the Court; but in the judgment the reason he assigned for dismissing the case was the non-attendance of the plaintiff and his pleader. An appeal, however, having been made to the Subordinate Judge, the latter sent the case back for retrial, and ordered a refund of the value of the court-fee paid for the appeal. The writer fails to understand what the following words of the Munsif in his judgment mean-"his (plaintiff's) pleader is not here." Does he mean all pleaders to be always present in his Court?

12. The Burdwan Sanjivani of the 14th May says that the growth of Burdwan Sanjivani,

revenue from the sale of court-fee stamps is a proof The cost of litigation and the of the growth of litigation in the country. The cost of litigation is impoverishing the people, and it

is to be feared that if the spirit of litigation grows at this frightful rate, people will in future have to spend the greater portion of their earnings in gratifying that desire. Is it not therefore incumbent on the Government to reduce the cost of litigation by lowering the prices of court-fee stamps, and to counteract to some extent the ruinous effects of the frightful growth of litigation? But even if it is not inclined to reduce the cost of litigation, it should at least increase the convenience of the litigants by increasing the number of Munsifs, and thus expediting the administration of justice. The Government should also spend a portion of the stamp revenue in building better houses for the accommodation of the Munsifs, as well as those who have to resort to their Courts. The pay of the Munsifs, considering their hard work, is not very large; and if they are not willing to pay for better house accommodation, ought not the Government, which derives such a large revenue from the sale of court-fee stamps, to provide them with free quarters—more commodious than those which are available at present?

13. According to a correspondent of the Vikrampur of the 16th May, Maulavi Abdul Kader, Deputy Magistrate of Noa-The Deputy Magistrate of khali, and the members of the local bar are not

pulling well. The Deputy Magistrate has issued a circular to the effect that no mukhtar or pleader who is connected with a case under trial will be allowed to leave the court-room so long as the trial goes on. The pleaders and mukhtars have resented this strange and unnecessarily humiliating order by declining in a body to attend the Deputy Magistrate's Court. This has very much inconvenienced the suitors, who have thus been practically deprived of legal assistance. The members of the Noakhali bar have also complained against the Deputy Magistrate to the District Magistrate, who is, however, laid up with illness, and is not in a position to pay proper attention to their complaint. It is to be hoped that a settlement of the difference between the bench and the bar in Noakhali will be soon brought about, for, without it, there will be great irregularity in the administration of justice in the place.

14. The Bangavasi of the 18th May learns that even if the Commission convicts Mr. Fordyce of the charge of taking bribes, The Fordyce Commission. the Government will take no steps to prosecute him, and the question that will be settled is, whether he should or should not be retained in the public service. If this is true, there was no use of going through the ceremony of appointing a Commission to try him.

CHABU MIHIR, May 14th, 1895.

May 14th, 1895.

VIKRAMPUR, May 16th, 1895.

BANGAVASI May 18th, 1895.

(d)-Education.

HITAVADI, May 17th, 1895. Thefts in the Higher Training though no outsiders are allowed to enter into the premises of the Higher Training Association, books and newspapers are being frequently stolen from

the place. Is this an effect of the higher training of young men? But this is nothing to be wondered at, when it is remembered how, not long ago, Mr. Wilson, one of the leaders of the movement, ill-treated a native professor of a certain college. When the leader and preceptor can conduct himself in that way, what wonder that his disciples should turn out clever thieves?

Sabaswat Patra, May 18th, 1895. Bhusan Dutt, M.A., Lecturer on Philosophy in the Dacca College, is going to be transferred to the Patna College, where he will stay for some time. The loss of such a popular and experienced teacher will be keenly felt by the students of the Dacca College. It may have been very necessary to transfer Babu Sashi Bhusan to the Patna College for the convenience of the Education Department, but the Director should bear in mind that constant change of its teaching staff often does harm to the students of an educational institution.

SARASWAT PATRA.

17. The same paper observes that from the list of the successful candidates for the Sanskrit Titles Examination, it is very difficult to form any idea of the rules which regulate the award of prizes. The new Principal of the Sanskrit College is therefore requested to enlighten the public on the subject.

18. The Dacca Gazette of the 20th May thus writes about the subjects and text-books appointed for the training-school examinations:—

DACCA GAZETTE, May 20th, 1895.

training-schools.

The subjects read in the training schools are in no way inferior to those which are read in the F. A. classes of the colleges, and this course of reading the boys in those schools have to go through within three years after leaving the middle vernacular or the middle English school. Some of the subjects taught, such as trigonometry, mechanics, chemistry, botany, and drawing, are not of the least use to the boys after they have left school, and the faint impressions created in their minds by the study of merely the rudiments of these subjects are obliterated as soon as they close their school It is difficult to understand why the authorities should insist upon teaching chemistry and keeping up costly laboratories for the purpose when retrenchment in expenditure is going on in all directions. The reading of the Sanskrit Grammar "Mugdhabodh" in the training schools is equally useless, and forms an unnecessary strain on the energy of the boys. The book is intended for boys of a tender age when the memory is sooner developed than the other mental faculties, and it is simply foolish to force young men to get by heart its abstruse rules. A grammar which can be more easily understood, such as "Katantra Laghu Kaumudi" or Pandit Vidyasagar's "Kaumudi" ought to be substituted for it. Certain portions of algebra and geometry can also be left out without detriment to the intellectual training of the boys. The course should be curtailed on these lines, and the curtailment should be made up for by extending the course in Bengali and Sanskrit.

If the authorities, however, are intent on keeping up the present course of studies in the training schools, they should, by opening Bengali classes similar to the B. A. and M. A. classes in the colleges, give the boys in these schools opportunities for further carrying on their studies, and thus open the way to the production of a more efficient class of pandits than are now available.

The method of appointing text-books for the training schools is not less faulty. The selfish book-makers of the Education Department are everywhere found to be rampant. Besides, books are often appointed which cannot be had of book-sellers, and books are also prescribed which are too easy to be read in the training schools.

In conclusion, the writer draws attention to the poor salaries which are paid to the pandits trained by these schools. Nominally their posts carry salaries of from Rs. 16 to Rs. 17 a month, but practically they do not get more than

Rs. 10 or Rs. 12. They are made by owners or managers of schools to give receipts for sums which they do not actually receive. The attention of the educational authorities is drawn to this matter.

(e) - Local Self-Government and Municipal Administration.

19. The Tangail correspondent of the Charu Mihir of the 14th May says that as the stream Lauhajangha, in the Tangail Drinking-water in certain places subdivision of the Mymensingh district, is the only source from which people living on its banks, from Subarnakhali to Dhula, get their supply of drinking-water, and as the mouth of the stream is silted up at the commencement of the winter, it is the duty of the District Board to have it deepened, so as to ensure a current in the stream all the year round. The closing up of the mouth causes a total stoppage of boat traffic, thereby injuring the local trade.

20. A correspondent of the Burdwan Sanjivani of the 14th May writes in BURDWAN SANJIVANI, connection with the question of house-connection in May 14th, 1895.

The question of house-connecthe Burdwan Municipality that Mr. Dutt, the late tion in the Burdwan Municipality. Officiating Commissioner of the Burdwan Division, declared himself against the extension of house-connection, but in favour of increasing the number of hydrants in public thoroughfares, on the ground that the former measures would benefit only a few well-to-do rate-payers, while the latter would benefit the public and the rate-payers generally. This opinion, however, is not well-founded. The majority of the rate-payers of the Burdwan Municipality are middle-class men, who cannot afford to engage servants to fetch water from the public hydrants, and the female members of whose family cannot also go out in the streets to fetch water. If these men are not granted house-connection, they will have to suffer very great inconvenience, and will practically be deprived of the benefit of filtered water, for which they are obliged to pay. But if they are granted house-connection, they will not have to go to the public hydrants, while their neighbours too will share this advantage equally with them, thus relieving to a great extent the pressure of the demand on public hydrants. The objection too that the extension of house-connection will lead to a great waste of filtered water does not stand to reason. The houses of the majority of rate-payers are built of mud, and they will themselves take the precaution of preventing a large quantity of water collecting in the yards and soaking into the walls. It is not necessary to refute the objection that the Municipal Commissioners, who are advocating the extension of house-connection, have an interest in doing so, as it is well known that they have already got watertaps in their houses, and can therefore have no other interest in pressing for the extension of house-connection than the convenience of the rate-payers, whose interests are considered to be in their safe-keeping. On all these grounds it is quite evident that Mr. Dutt was ill-advised in refusing the extension of house-connection. He was equally ill-advised when he uitimately sanctioned the grant of house connection to fifty houses under the condition that the recipients of this favour would be bound, to allow three or four neighbouring houses to share the advantage equally with them. This condition is as unnecessary and informal as it is difficult of enforcement. The Burdwan Municipality has the means to extend house-connection, as well as to increase the number of hydrants, and it is beyond one's comprehension why it should be prevented from extending to the public the boon of filtered water.

The drainage of Calcutta. The drainage of Calcutta, doubts whether the sewer drainage system of the metropolis has not been more a mischief than a benefit to it. From certain statistics published by Dr. Simpson, it clearly appears that the increasing prevalence of fever in the city is due mainly to its drainage system. When the scheme of the new drainage was proposed, Dr. Mouat said that if the scheme were carried out, Calcutta would be depopulated in half a century, and this was also the view held by an eminent medical man like Dr. Norman Chevers. Though it is not yet fifty years since the new drainage system was introduced, there are already indications that Dr. Mouat's prediction will be fulfilled to the letter. The drainage

SAHACHAR. May 15th, 1895.

CHARU MIHIR

May 14th, 1895.

of Calcutta is two hundred miles in length, and has cost about a crore and a quarter of rupees. But its chief defect is that the drains cannot be thoroughly flushed. The flushing plan is that the water of the Hooghly river should enter into the drains, and after having washed them clean should be discharged into the canal on the east of the city. But owing to the flood tide taking place almost simultaneously in the river and in the canal, the water from the river enters into the drains, but cannot discharge itself into the canal owing to the water in the latter standing at a higher level. This defect cannot be removed without entirely altering the plan on which the drains have been constructed. Again, according to many sanitary experts, closed under-ground drains are injurious to health, and such drains where they exist should be replaced by open drains. Now that the Calcutta Municipality is considering the question of draining the suburban area, it is hoped that it will bear in mind all these points, and desist from introducing the closed sewer system in that area.

BANGANIVASI, May 17th, 1895.

22. The Banganivasi of the 17th May writes as follows:— Let the practice of throwing dead bodies into Sanitation in Bengal. rivers be strictly prohibited in the district of Nadia, and let the municipalities, the police-stations, and the village panchayets be invested with the power of executing this order of the Government. The people of Nadia have not the least objection to such a measure. On the other hand, they will be glad to submit to the Government a largely-signed petition, praying for the prohibition of the abominable practice. But the prohibition of this practice alone will not improve the sanitary condition of Nadia. Something more is needed. The rivers in Nadia are all gradually silting up, and the Government should first of all undertake the task of thoroughly dredging them. Mr. Westmacott, Commissioner of the Presidency Division, lately had an audience with the Municipal Commissioners of Krishnagar, and proposed that they should undertake the dredging of the Anjona. The Government was willing to pay half the cost and lend money to the Municipality to meet the other half of the expenditure. The Municipal Commissioners declined to accept the proposal on the ground that it would increase the burden of taxation on the rate-payers. To our mind the Commissioners have not acted wisely. The necessity of good drinking-water has in Nadia become more pressing than even the necessity of food. A man can live without food for a few days, but he cannot live without water for a single moment. It will be no doubt a hardship to the people of Nadia to bear the cost of dredging the Anjona, but they are prepared to put the best face upon the matter if it bring them sound They will not grudge even if the Government should levy a slight tax on them specially for the purpose of reclaiming the rivers of Nadia from gradual silting up.

EDUCATION GAZETTE, May 17th, 1895. 23. The Education Gazette of the 17th May heartily approves of the restrictions which Government proposes to place upon the throwing of dead bodies into rivers. The restrictions will not in the least interfere with any

religious practice or custom of the Hindus, and will greatly benefit the country. The far-seeing Hindu Shastras, unfailing advocates of purity of mind and body, specially enjoin the protection of reservoirs of water against pollution. Not to speak of throwing dead bodies into rivers, they forbid even the passing of evacuations and making of water on roads, on ashes, on pasture and plough lands, on cremation grounds, in water, on mountains, in dilapidated temples, on insect mounds, into holes containing living beings, and on river banks.

Washing one's self in a tank after a call of nature is also strictly prohibited. And the following is the injunction of the Shastras regarding the throwing of the dead bodies of men and the carcasses of animals into rivers and other reservoirs of water:—

The water of tanks, lakes and wells becomes polluted by contact with the body of an animal, whose flesh is not man's food. Where a reservoir is so polluted, the dead body of the animal, together with the water and the silt in the reservoir, should be removed, and certain purifying things should be thrown into it after chanting certain mantras. If the reservoir contains a very large quantity of water, the removal of the dead body and of some thirty, sixty or a hundred jarsful of water, and the purification of the reservoir by the above process will do.

24. The Hitavadi of the 17th May has the following:-

The fearful prevalence of cholera and small-pox Dr. Simpson's notice. in the city this year is a clear proof of the great improvement Dr. Simpson has made in the sanitation of the metropolis. And the Doctor is now speaking himself out, and telling the townsmen that though he will not be able to do them any good, he will do them harm, and the Municipality must pay him for it. The following notice is being served by his orders on all who are affected with small-pox:-

"You are hereby informed that by remaining in you are spreading or likely to spread the contagion of small-pox, and you are warned that unless you, within 12 hours, remove yourself to hospital, you will be prosecuted before a

Magistrate under section 269 of the Indian Penal Code."

If Dr. Simpson has really issued such an illegal notice, he ought to be taught a lesson. Any man with a grain of common sense in him can see that the case of a small-pox patient staying at home does not come under the purview of the section of the Penal Code referred to. That section provides for the punishment of only those who unlawfully or negligently do any act which is and which they know, or have reason to believe to be, likely to spread the infection of any disease dangerous to life. A small-pox patient is a passive sufferer, and takes no active part in the spread of contagion. He cannot therefore be punished under the Penal Code. The Indian Nation has clearly proved this.

Now, if small-pox patients are punished under the Penal Code, why should not patients suffering from infectious diseases like cholera, measles, and diphtheria be similarly punished? However that be, it is not for a municipal servant like Dr. Simpson to interpret the law. Under what section of the Penal Code is he frightening the relatives of small-pox patients by putting up the above notice on their houses? The people of this country do not like to send their sick relatives to hospital. There will therefore be considerable objection if the practice of other countries is sought to be enforced in their case. And if Dr. Simpson seeks to do this, he will only incur public

ridicule.

(g)—Railways and communications, including canals and irrigation.

25. The Murshidabad Hitaishi of the 15th May draws the attention of the railway authorities to the danger to life and limb that A complaint concerning the may arise from there being no fencing along the Nalhati State Railway. Nalhati State Railway line. On the 9th May last a passenger train from Nalhati came upon a cow which was crossing the line at a place between the Sagardighi and Barala stations. The poor animal was at once cut into two, and the Hindu passengers were shocked at this painful sight. The District Magistrate should take some steps to have this state of things mended without further delay.

26. The Vikrampur of the 16th May is glad to learn that Babu Umesh Chunder Gupta of Baligaon, an Overseer of the A road wanted in Vikrampur. Rangpur District Board, has applied to the Dacca

District Board for the construction of a road from Munshiganj to Lauhajangh. There is already a road in existence from Munshiganj to Sonarang, and the District Board has only to extend it by repairing the old Nawabi road, now out of use, which runs from Sonarang to Kanaksar. A further extension of this road up to Lauhajangh will require the construction of a short road through such important places as Jhantia and Brahmangaon, and which will connect two centres of trade and population like Munshiganj and Lauhajangh. The District Board may not be in a position to take up the construction of the whole road at once, but it can surely begin with the repair of the old road from Sonarang to Kanaksar. This road is being gradually encroached upon by the owners of the adjoining rice-fields, and that is all the greater reason why the District Board should at once reclaim it and take up its repair.

27. The Bangavasi of the 18th May learns from an Assensole correspondent that a brutal assault was committed on the Rape on a young girl on the East Indian Railway. 8th May last in the Assensole Railway Station on a native girl of 12 or 13 by four Eurasian ticket-collectors attached to that station. An up-passenger train reached the Assensole

HITAVADI, May 17th, 1895.

HITAISHI, May 15th, 1895.

VIKRAMPUR, May 16th, 1895.

BANGAVASI. May 18th, 1895. Station on the evening of the 8th May, when the girl in question was found without a ticket. The ticket-collector on duty pulled her down from the female compartment and handed her over to the Railway constable. After the train left the station, the ticket-collector asked the constable to let the girl off, but she had not gone many steps when he threatened her with confinement in the station and took her to the running bungalow for guards and drivers, where he and his three companions committed a most brutal assault upon her. She was let off at 9 o'clock in the evening, when she lodged a complaint in the police. station. The charge is a serious one, and the Indian public has every reason to demand that the railway authorities shall cause a searching enquiry into the matter.

SANJIVANI, May 18th, 1895.

28. A correspondent of the Sanjivani of the 18th May writes as follows :-A haughty, young, and inexperienced European A complaint in connection with of 25 has lately been appointed the Traffic Manager the Tirhut Railway. of the Tirhut Railway. The inadvisability of entrusting a green young man who has just passed his teens with such a responsible office is already making itself clearly felt. The new Head of the Traffic Department has already made it too hot for the railway officials. Dismissal of railway servants without notice has become a common occurrence. They are being ill-treated in various other ways. No Hindu railway officer is granted even a short leave of a couple of days to perform the shradh ceremony of his deceased parent. A subordinate officer was the other day asked to resign, on his asking the permission of the Traffic Manager to apply somewhere else for a more lucrative post. The old experienced Station Masters of the Railway are being very ill-treated and wrongly found fault with. Mr. Walze, the Station Master of Somastipur, who has so long been meritoriously serving the Company, has been dismissed on the ground that he did not keep a vigilant watch over the goods clerk who has decamped after embezzling a large sum of money. It is true that it is a part of the Station Master's duty to check the accounts of the goods clerk; but this is hardly possible in a large railway station like Somastipur, and the Station Master had good reason to remain satisfied with the goods clerk as long as his accounts were "examined and found

The Railway officials, are not, however, the only persons who suffer from the overbearing conduct of this inexperienced Manager. The public are going through great loss and inconvenience on account of the stoppage of goods traffic on the line, owing to the blocking up of the branch line to Mokama Ghât. But the Traffic Manager has so far taken no step to open the line to goods

correct" by the Railway inspectors of accounts. Moreover, the embezzlement was going on long before Mr. Walze came to Somastipur and it is wrong to hold

traffic.

The head of the Traffic Department has been well matched in the new head of the Engineering Department. The latter has even overdone his brother in the Traffic Department by summarily dismissing his head-clerk who has been

serving with credit for the last thirteen years.

him solely responsible for another man's guilt.

Is there no one to look into the conduct of these two precious Railway officers? The Government seems to have assumed an indifferent attitude towards the management of the Tirhut Railway since it was handed over to the Company. But the time has come when it should no longer remain indifferent to the interests of the public as well as of the subordinate Railway officers who are being ill-treated by a body of men who have placed themselves at the head of the management and whose sole care is to increase their own salaries by dismissing petty ministerial officers.

(h)—General.

SAHACHAR, May 15th, 1895. Sir Charles Elliott's appoint— A writer in the Times newspaper says that ment of natives to high posts. Sir Charles Elliott has fulfilled the hopes of the Bengalis by giving them high posts in the public service with a freedom and impartiality not known before. If Sir Charles Elliott had really done this, he would have been deserving of the everlasting gratitude of the Bengalis. But unfortunately he has not done this. During the whole term of his administration only one Bengali gentleman obtained for a time a high executive post

But Mr. Dutt's case cannot be cited as an illustration of Sir Charles Elliott's pro-Bengali policy. When Mr. Dutt was appointed to the Commissionership his name stood at the top of the list of Executive officers, consequently no other officer could be appointed to that post, and his proved ability as an executive officer made it impossible for Government to overlook his claims. So instead of deserving praise, His Honour would have incurred blame and censure both in this country and in England if he had not given the Commissionership to Mr. Dutt. And what else has Sir Charles Elliott done in the way of giving high posts to Bengalis? A review of all his actions in this connection will rather go to show that he has consistently excluded the natives from the higher Executive Service, by transferring all native Magistrates to the Judicial and other branches of the public service. The Times' correspondent praises Sir Charles Elliott's impartiality to the natives. In one sense, the correspondent is right, because the Lieutenant-Governor has transferred the native Magistrates, one and all, without distinction, from the Executive Service. Whilst that efficient Executive officer, Mr. K. G. Gupta, has been removed to the Board of Revenue to cast up the accounts of the sale of ganja and liquor, many European Civilians, considerably his junior, are entrusted with the highest district charge. Mr. Nanda Krishna Bose, an equally able Statutory Civilian is now nothing better than a clerk on high pay in the office of the Board of Revenue, and Mr. Gopendra Krishna Deb, also an able officer has also been removed from the District Magistrateship. These officers, in their new posts, no doubt, get handsome salaries, but their new duties could have been efficiently discharged by Deputy Magistrates and other officers of no higher rank. The Lieutenant-Governor would have deserved praise if he had retained the native Magistrates in their posts and given to other native officers the posts of Excise Commissioner, Junior Secretary to the Board, and Inspector-General of Registration. The Government may not like the native Civilians, but it cannot be denied that being thoroughly familiar with the manners, customs and condition of the people, they make far better District officers than European Magistrates. But Sir Charles Elliott has removed all the native officers from District Magistrateships, and will undoubtedly remove therefrom all those who are now officiating in that capacity.

Natives have been equally excluded from the higher-appointments in the Police Service, although considering the efficiency with which the few native officers who have been appointed to these grades have discharged their duties, and the impossibility of European District Superintendents ever acquiring a thorough knowledge of the ways and habits of the people, it is highly desirable that natives should be more largely employed in high posts in the Police department. The Madras Government has proposed to do this. But the present Lieutenant-Governor of Bengal wants to fill the upper Police service entirely

with his own countrymen.

The above facts will convince the writer in the Times that he is mistaken in

his praise of Sir Charles Elliott as a giver of high posts to Bengalis.

The village Post-master

the miseries of the village Post-master. Here is a concrete instance in point. Babu Rebati Kumar Dutt is the Sub-Post master of Madhupur, in the Mymensingh district, drawing the miserable pittance of a pay of Rs. 15 a month. In the month of April last, he was attacked with cholera, and away from home and family he lay writhing in agony, while the work in the Post office came to a standstill, there being no other individual to relieve the poor village Post-master. Strange to say, the Postal authorities made no arrangement to relieve the Post-master at this critical moment. By the grace of God, however, he soon recovered, but he had to resume his work, without giving his body the rest which it so much needed.

31. In the opinion of the same paper, the Government has conferred an invaluable boon on malaria-stricken Bengal by arranging for the sale of pice packets of quinine through the Post-offices. Some of the native papers are finding fault with the Government for this sale of cheap quinine on the ground that the poor people who buy quinine from the Post-masters, not being properly directed, often administer it to the patients before there has been a remission of fever and thus

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Post-master to warn his customer against using it before the remission of fever. It is surely uncharitable on the part of a section of the native press thus to misinterpret a very generous motive of the Government and even to go the length of insinuating that its sole motive in this matter is to derive a large profit by securing a very wide sale of its quinine. Such misconstruction of the motives of the Government does not speak of a kindly feeling towards it and is calculated to do the people more harm than good.

SULABH DAINIK, May 22nd, 1895. 32. The Sulabh Dainik of the 22nd May makes the following observations on the results of the Subordinate Executive Service examinations:—

Service examinations, as published in the Calcutta Gazette, it is quite clear that the Lieutenant-Governor has shown marked favour towards the Musalman and the Eurasian communities. We do not complain of the favour shown to the Musalmans, but may we ask whether the Hindus have committed any very great offence in the eye of the Government by showing remarkable proficiency in acquiring Western learning? Is the favour shown to the Eurasians due to their blood? The present Lieutenant-Governor has, in more instances than one, shown partiality towards the Eurasians. Considering the proportion of the Eurasians to the population of the country, the number of Government posts occupied by them is simply out of proportion to the total number of such posts in the whole country. But even the Pioneer says that the average Eurasian is not fit for any resposible work or occupation.

The Lieutenant Governor says, in his Resolutions on the subject, that the appointment of the three Probationary Deputy Collectors by nomination is made after "a careful consideration of the claims upon Government of members of the candidates' family, the interest of the different classes of the community, and the requirements of the public service." The selection of these candidates therefore, clearly goes against the proclamation of the Queen-Empress, according to which no distinction of creed, caste or colour should be made in appointing a candidate to the public service—the only qualification required being the candidate's merit and efficiency. There is nothing in that proclamation to justify the Lieutenant-Governor's nomination of one Musalman and two Eurasians to the Deputy-Collectorship in preference to the claims of Hindu candidates who were admittedly superior to them.

As regards the appointment of the Sub-Deputy Collectors, we have to say one or two words. All the seventeen candidates nominated by the Lieutenant-Governor are graduates, and there are many M.A.'s and B.L.'s among them. We have therefore no objection to this year's selection, but it is notorious that strong recommendation often stands a candidate of inferior merit in very good stead in securing an appointment to the Sub-Deputy Collectorship. In appointing Sub-Deputy Collectors, therefore, the system of nomination should be done away with, and they should be selected from among the succesful candidates standing in order of merit below those who are appointed to the post of Deputy-Collector.

As regards the preference given to a candidate "on account of his claim upon public service," we fail to understand whence this supposed claim comes. Is the meritorious service of a member of his family strong enough to override the superior merit of another candidate who is not so favourably situated?

The creed of Englishmen preaches the annihilation of all distinctions of of caste and class. It is therefore quite inexplicable why Englishmen should observe the distinction of class in appointing persons to the public service.

III.—LEGISLATIVE.

CHARU MIHIR, May 14th, 1895. 33. The Châru Mihir of the 14th May has the following as to the comparative fitness of Mr. A. M. Bose and of Babu Rajkumar Sarbadhikari to represent the Calcutta University in the Bengal Council:—

Mr. Bose is a good speaker, a clever man, a true patriot, and the pride of his country as a man of intellectual attainments. His tact, independence and

devotion to duty were clearly proved during the discussion on the Chaukidari Bill in Sir Rivers Thompson's time. But Babu Rajkumar Sarbadhikari has not up to this time given a single proof of his fitness for a membership of the Council. He edits the Hindoo Patriot, but the paper which was so dearly loved and ably served by Haris Chandra and Kristodas has come to a sorry plight under him, for he has made it anti-native in divers matters. But Babu Rajkumar is favoured by certain officials and there is no knowing whether in this election he has not the secret support of some of these gentlemen. But the Fellows of the Calcutta University will prove themselves unworthy of their franchise if they choose him in preference to Mr. Bose. The country will have to hide its face for shame, if Mr. Bose sustains a defeat at the hands of his unworthy rival.

34. The same paper says that in the absence of any restrictions on the sale of poisons, cases of suicide are rapidly increas-

last sessions to get the jury to present a note recording the desirability of placing legislative restrictions on the sale of poisons. The Legislatures in this country are often found anxious to frame laws on trifling subjects, but they have culpably neglected their duty in the matter of restricting the free sale of poisons.

35. The Hitavadi of the 17th May says that much controversy is still going on over the ensuing election for the Burdwan Division. No one has up to this time ventured control.

to contradict a single accusation made against Dr. Rash Bihari Ghosh by a correspondent of this paper, who charged him with subserviency to Government and enmity to his own country. It is perfectly true that Dr. Ghosh has at every step gone against the interests of his country from personal motives. He has not joined the Congress, he did not take any part in the agitation against the Jury notification, he gave a dinner to Lord Lansdowne, and lastly, he did not attend the meeting which was held to do honour to Mr. Mehta. But here is a further charge against him, and let the man contradict it, who can. Dr. Ghosh has distinctly told a gentleman that his attempt to enter the Bengal Council is being made solely for the purpose of preventing Babu Surendra Nath Banerji from being elected a member of the Supreme Council. He has also caused it to be declared that he has offered himself as a candidate for election to the Bengal Council at the request of the Howrah Peoples' Association. But in this connection a correspondent named Kenaram Ghosh has written in the Indian Mirror, asking when and where the meeting of the Association was held, which is stated to have made this request. The truth is that the request which may have been made by a few members with closed doors, was not a request made at a public meeting.

No better proof of Dr. Ghosh's enmity to his country can be given than the fact that his candidature is supported by the *Englishman* newspaper. Dr. Ghosh, Babu Kalinath Mitra, and Babu Raj Kumar Sarvadhikari all three are supported by anti-native Anglo-Indians. The election of even one of them to the Council will, therefore, be a misfortune to the country. Babu Raj Kumar has been long known to his countrymen; Babu Kalinath came out in his true colours when he accused ninety-nine per cent. of Hindus of beefeating; it is Dr. Ghosh alone who has not yet been found out by many of his countrymen. But it is a fortunate thing that he, too, is in a fair way of being

found out.

36. The Samay of the 17th May has the following:—

Patrika is quite right in requesting the zamindars to refrain from offering themselves as candidates in the forthcoming elections. The circumstances in which they are placed stand in the way of their proving themselves worthy representatives of the people, even if they have in all conscience the sincerest intention to serve their country well. They are either bound to be ornamental figureheads in the Legislative Council, or to be in constant danger of offending the official clique by their courage and independence if they at all venture to give a proof of those sterling virtues in the Legislative Council. For a zamindar to offend the official class in this country

CHARU MIHIR, May 14th, 1895.

HITAVADI, May 17th, 1895.

SAMAY, May 17th, 1895.

is almost to ruin himself-a sacrifice, which few zamindars will have the courage to make. The Judicial and the Executive functions are in this country centred in one and the same person. The Executive authorities have made the law a tool in their hands, and can make it serve their purpose in any way they like. The High Court has no control over them; it cannot free the law from its subservience to the official class, it can only censure the Executive authorities, whenever there is a miscarriage of justice, but it can do nothing more. If the rampant Executive authorities, conscious of the secret support of the Government, hold the censure of the High Court in contempt, and snap their fingers at the Honourable Judges, the latter have no means of checking them, except advising the Government to keep its servants in proper control. and prevent them from going beyond their tether. The Government, however, is in these days inclined more to reward than to punish the erring officials who show an exuberance of zeal in maintaining what they think to be the prestige of the Government by overawing the people. These officials, therefore, would have very easily squared their accounts with the Government but for the non-official members of the Legislative Councils who have now the power of calling the conduct of the erring officials into question and of compelling the Government to give an explanation. This explanation, as it appears from the official answers to non-official interpellations, is often worse than worthless. But still such interpellations are very likely to draw the attention of some friend of India in Parliament where he is sure to raise a question with greater chance of success. The official clique, therefore, cannot easily forgive the non-official member who has the hardihood to disturb their ease and interfere with their liberty to act as they like. And if that non-official member happens to be a zamindar, then he may well curse the day when he ever ventured to take his seat in the Legislative Council as an independent representative of the people. It is no excuse that he has always kept himself within the bounds of law. The law possesses the wonderful elasticity to be made a tool of oppression in the hands of an unscrupulous official to whom more than to any other person a zamindar presents the opportunity to wreak his vengeance.

Let us take an example to illustrate our meaning. A zamindar is very likely to have a few refractory tenants, one of whom, let us suppose, lodges a false complaint of assault against him in the Court of the Magistrate. The Magistrate is already prejudiced against the zamindar and entertains an antipathy towards him on account of his boldness and independence in the Legislative Council. He looks upon him as a Tartar who is to be roughly handled. He hands over the case for trial to a pliant and obedient Deputy Magistrate with a broad hint that the man requires some chastisement. The case being a trifling one, the zamindar naturally prays to be represented by his legal adviser, but his prayer is rejected. To save himself from the indignity of standing in the same dock with a low class raiyat, he induces the complainant somehow or other to compound the case, and unsuspecting any further difficulty he does not put in his appearance in the Court on the day of hearing. But great is his surprise when he is served the next day with a summons in which he is called upon to answer the charge of disobeying the order of a court of justice. He is now cast from the frying pan to the fire, and he finds no escape from the vengeance

of an angry official.

This is by no means an overdrawn picture. Instances of such Magisterial oppression are not rare. Raja Surjya Kanta Chaudhuri is a living example to his brother zamindars, warning them against offending in any way the Government officials who in the mufassal are the lords of all they survey and whose power there is none to dispute. The zamindars who sometimes pay handsome donations to the National Congress, but are in mortal dread of having their names given out to the public by no means overestimate the despotic power with which an Executive officer is armed in this country.

IV.—NATIVE STATES.

BANGANIVASI, May 17th, 1895. 57. The Banganivasi, of the 17th May, advises the Government to reinstate the Maharaja of Bhurtpur. The Maharaja is humbly praying the Government to give him

back his State and the Government should not further stain its reputation by declining to listen to his prayer. The Indian public is anxiously awaiting the reply of the Viceroy to the prayer of the Maharaja.

38. A correspondent of the Sanjivani of the 18th May has the following on the present condition of Independent Tippera:-

In the last issue of the Sanjivani, (see Report on dependent Tippera. Native Papers for the week ending the 18th May, paragraph 36), the reader was given an idea of the means by which a number of foreigners gradually made their way into the State and monopolised all the high offices through the influence which they began to exercise upon the Maharaja. The reader has also seen how the Government has from time to time tried to impress upon the Maharaja the necessity of reforming his Government, and of freeing himself from the influence of the present Secretary and his clique who have dragged it down to the lowest depth of degradation. It has become also quite clear to the reader how the Maharaja tried from time to time to set his house in order by appointing able men like Sambhu Chunder Mukharji to the post of Prime Minister, but how his best intentions were thwarted by the busy intriguers who made Tippera too hot for all those honest men, who tried to

introduce reform into the Government against their will and intention. And, lastly, the reader must have seen how this body of intriguers have, in spite of all efforts to dislodge them from their vantage ground, continued to rule supreme in the State and have been the instrument of its ruin and of the loss

of the Maharaja's independence.

The present condition of In-

It may appear to be a mystery why the gentlemen who were from time to time appointed Prime Ministers by the Maharaja were almost without a single exception forced to resign soon after their appointment. This mystery has, however, been solved by one of these Prime Ministers himself, Babu Sambhu Chunder Mukharji, who was at first "Political Adviser" of the Maharaja, and was afterwards made his Prime Minister. In his book entitled "Travels in East Bengal," which was written immediately after he resigned the Prime Ministership, Babu Sambhu Chunder Mukharji refers to "the intriguers and adventurers who have brought the State to its present wretchedness," and who were in alarm on his appointment. "Intrigue was unweariedly busy," says the author in another part of his book, "those who had victimised one Minister even to tarnishing his fair fame with the stigma of corruption might well hope to keep out another. I repeatedly asked permission to return, but the good Maharaja detained me from day to day with promises of an early settlement." The author also makes mention of "one of the favourites, who so long hoped that the efforts of himself, and his brother intriguers would keep me out of the State," but who was afterwards "unceasing in his efforts to poison the Maharaja against me, and otherwise to prevent my installation in office." From all these remarks it is quite clear that it was the intrigue of the present Secretary and his clique that forced Babu Sambhu Chunder Mukharji and all other Ministers before and after him to resign their posts soon after their appointment.

A careful examination of the conditions by which the Maharaja was bound by the present Lieutenant-Governor, when His Honour granted the Maharaja's prayer to remove Babu Umakanta Das from the management of the State, clearly shows how his independence has been reduced almost to a name. The first of these conditions requires the Maharaja to submit an annual Administration Report to the Government. The Maharaja was not hitherto required to submit such a report, nor is a Chief who is really independent ever forced by the Government to submit every year an Administration Report. As is the custom in every other independent native State, the Maharaja was so long required to supply the Government, on application, with necessary information regarding his administration. But now his position has been so far humiliated, that he is required not only to submit an annual report of his administration, but to submit it through the Commissioner of the Division, and not directly to

the Government.

In the next place, it has been strictly enjoined on the Maharaja by the second of the above conditions that whenever the Commissioner happens to pay a visit to Comilla, either he himself or the Jubaraj and the Bura Thakur should see him and supply him with all the information he may require. So long, May 18th, 1895.

however, it was the Commissioner, who had to go to the Maharaja, whenever the necessity arose, and not the Maharaja, who had to come to the Commissioner. The Dacca Prakash, the paid advocate of the clique of conspirators, tries to explain away this humiliating condition by observing that it is highly calculated to increase the popularity of the Maharaja in the State, and cement the friendship between him and the Government. The argument is hopelessly lame. The popularity of the Maharaja was always very great; and neither his popularity nor his dignity has, as a matter of fact, been the least increased by the humiliating practice of dancing attendance on the Cmomissioner of the Division.

As regards the last of these conditions, namely, the removal of the Political Agent from Agartala, it may be explained in various ways. The Political Agent was removed when Babu Umakant Das was at the head of the management, and most probably on the ground that the Government could safely confide in a trusted officer. It may be that since his removal the Government has not thought it necessary to appoint a Political Agent. But it is also possible that the Government no longer considers Tippera to be a State important enough to require a Political Agent to look after its administration; or that it now thinks that Tippera was never an important State, and it was a mistake ever to have honoured it with the dignified presence of a Political Agent. But whatever may be the true explanation of the question, there is little doubt that the removal of the Political Agent from Tippera is a great loss to its people. Most of the reforms in the administration of the State, such as the abolition of suttee and slavery, the construction of roads and establishment of schools, and Post offices, were due to the counsels of the Political Agents. The benefit thus derived by the people from the permanent residence of a Political Agent in Tippera will no longer be possible, now that he is removed, and the District Magistrate is instructed to pay now and then a flying visit to the State. The permanent residence of a Political Agent in Tippera was, however, never more needed than at the present juncture, when the administration of the State is completely in the hands of a selfish clique of conspirators, its people are in a state of commotion, and it is extremely necessary that the Government should acquaint itself thoroughly with the existing state of affairs before it is led to interfere in the management of the State.

VI.-MISCELLANEOUS.

SAHACHAR, May 15th, 1895. 39. The Suhachar of the 15th May regrets that though the whole press is mentioning the names of Mr. Clarke, Maharaja Durga Charan Law and Syed Ameer Hosain as fit persons to receive honours on the ensuing birthday of Her Majesty, one name is forgotten, and that is that of Dr. Mahendra Lal Sircar, about whose fitness to receive honours there can be no difference of opinion. It is hoped that the press will unanimously mention Dr. Sircar's name in connection with the ensuing birthday honours.

HITAVADI, May 17th, 1895. We cannot agree with the Englishman newsThe Royal Commission of enpaper that India will derive no benefit from the appointment of the Commission to enquire into its public expenditure. The Commission may not produce any immediate results, but it cannot be denied that it will do at least some good to the country. Its work will no doubt be opposed by the officials here and by the enemies of this country in England, but in spite of all opposition it will yield good results. If it does nothing else, it will pave the way to the appointment of similar Commissions in future. And that is as much as we can expect to gain by one attempt.

HITAVADL

41. The same paper has the following in connection with Mr. Dowding's book on cooly labour in Assam.

There will be no help if even Mr. Dowding's story fails to excite Government's pity. The few cases mentioned in the book are enough to melt the hardest of hearts. Mr. Dowding has clearly shown the defects of the existing cooly law, and how under cover of that law the most inhuman outrages are committed.

The writer fully agrees with Mr. Dowding in making Government solely responsible for the hardhips and sufferings of the coolies. The law provides for the recruitment of coolies, but not for their protection against ill-treatment. The Government apparently takes no notice of the fact that coolies are overworked, get insufficient food and sleeping accommodation, and consequently suffer from illness and die premature deaths. At times they have to work the whole day in heavy showers, and do not get dry bedding and clothes at night. The press has fully exposed the tricks by which arkatis take away coolies, but up to the present moment Government has done nothing to check their nefarious practices.

Mr. Dowding has pointed out not only the defects in the law, but also the imperfections in the rules which have been framed under it, and in the manner in which cooly cases are disposed of in the law courts. He has omitted to say nothing which it is necessary to learn in order to completely realise the real condition of the coolies in the Assam tea-gardens. He has not also failed to point out how those people are deluded who, unable to understand the language of the coolies, think that they come to the tea gardens of their own free will. It is hoped Government will lend an ear to what has been said by Mr. Dowding, who is not an agitator or a faddist, and who has embodied in his

book his personal experiences.

The Education Gazette of the 17th May has an article headed, "Inter- EDUCATION GAZETTE,

May 17th, 1895.

nal government in Bengali society ":-"Internal government in Bengali Self-government existed everywhere in Hindu society. But with the extension of the English power, it is gradually disappearing from the country, and it scarcely exists in the Bengali society of to-day.

The writer once visited a not very small village in the Burdwan district, inhabited by about five hundred aghuri families and containing five mandals or village headmen. On the afternoon of the day of his arrival he found the five headmen and a large number of villagers assembled on a plot of ground near a temple to try a case of theft of paddy. The stolen property was recovered, witnesses for the prosecution were examined and the accused was called upon to make his defence. The latter admitted his guilt, and urged in extenuation of it that he had committed the theft under the pressure of necessity. The headman of that part of the village in which the accused resided bore testimony to his poor circumstances, and it was decided that the accused should be held by the ear by two men, and in that condition should be made to go round the temple five times. The man was also told to come to his headman whenever he should fail to secure work himself, and his headman would give him loans of paddy, if he failed to find work for him. The man whose paddy was stolen, himself offered to provide the accused with work, if he failed to find work elsewhere. This system of administering justice by the villagers themselves seemed far preferable to the administration of justice directly by the ruling power. When the hearing of the above case was over, the writer privately told one of the headmen with what satisfaction he had observed crime punished by the villagers themselves; but asked what the village people would do if the punished man went to the thana and informed the authorities of the corporal punishment which had been inflicted upon him by the villagers. The headman replied that the man would never go to the thana, because if he did so he would not in future get work from the villagers and would consequently have to leave the village. On being asked what punishment they would inflict on an accused person not belonging to their village, the headman replied that in such a case if the criminal was caught within the village precincts he would be given a good thrashing and let go, and then if the man ventured to make a complaint against the villagers, his case could not be proved for want of evidence. In the course of a conversation with the villagers the writer also learnt that no resident of that village borrowed money from the people of other villages, and that when any one felt the necessity of borrowing money he informed the headman of the village of his want, and the latter had the money raised within the village. When the zamindar paid a visit to the village, he was received with due honour and was presented with nuzzurs raised by subscription, but was forbidden to enter the village. As the raiyats paid the zamindar's rents and abwabs without the least demur, the zamindar on his part did nothing which might displease his tenants.

The writer, however, has never seen another village whose affairs are conducted on such purely democratic principles. In most places the zamindars have usurped every power of the people. The writer witnessed the following

criminal trial in a zamindar's cutcherry in the Jessore district:—

The trial took place before the zamindar's naib who was assisted by his gomastas, and the village headmen. The complainant was a Brahman, who charged a silver-smith with having cheated him by passing off upon him as pure metal a pair of silver bangles filled with lead. The naib showed the smith the pair of bangles and asked him if he had made them. The man did not deny the charge, but said that they had been made by one of his workmen. On this one of the village headmen sharply questioned him—" which workmen." The man hesitated, and mentioned a name. But a voice retorted that the man whose name was mentioned had left the defendant's shop two years ago. The accused man could make no answer, and the naib ordered him to pay a fine of twelve rupees on the spot, eight rupees being the value of the silver which had been given him by the complainant to be made into bangles, two as fine for attempt. ing to cheat him, and two as fine for making a false defence. The man tried to evade the punishment by saying that he would not be able to procure the money at that hour of the night. But the order was peremptory, and in halfan-hour's time he had to come back to the cutcherry with the full amount of the fine. The sum of eight rupees was paid to the complainant as compensation. But the pair of bangles was not returned to the silver-smith lest he should use it for the purpose of cheating somebody else. This illustrates the way in which self-government in Hindu society in Bengal was carried on through the agency of the zamindars. It contained defects which are to be found in the administration of justice by the ruling power, but it was not so marred by those defects as the latter. With all its faults, it was not an agency for the sale of justice, or a business for deception and falsehood to thrive upon, or a road to the ruin

of complainant and defendant alike.

These two trials took place in days long gone by, when Government was just introducing the system of Honorary Magistracy. About that time the writer had occasion to see one of the Secretaries to Government. The Secretary asked him if he had ever been to a place which he named. The station was one in the Rajshahi district, and the writer had visited it more than once. He had heard that a munsifi had been established in that place, but not a single case having been instituted in it since its creation, it had to be abolished. There was also a Police-station there, but the Police had little work to do. The writer mentioned all these facts to the Secretary, and added that it would be well for the country if the case was such everywhere. The Secretary was evidently not offended, and replied:-"That would be a desirable state of things, no doubt, but do you think that the zamindars dispense justice with impartiality and can freely punish Brahman offenders?"—"I think they can, but where is the harm if they cannot? Whatever the object of punishment, is not that the right punishment which Society considers proper for any person? And if punishment were inflicted on other principles, would not the administration of justice itself fall into disrepute and sympathy excited in favour of the punished man? In the law courts established by Government, corporal punishment is inflicted on Bruhman and Chandal alike, though Hindu society considers the corporal punishment of Brahmans extremely improper. The corporal punishment of Brahmans can produce no good result." The Secretary made no attempt to meet these arguments, but said: "It is best under the circumstances to appoint those as Honorary Magistrates who have got the judicial power in their hands without special bestowal." The writer said that their appointment would take all real judicial power out of their hands, because as Honorary Magistrates they would have no independence, being obliged to guide themselves in accordance with rules framed by Government and to keep themselves under Government's supervision, that the administration of justice would become a mere paper affair, stolen properties would not be recovered or restored to their owners, fines would become heavier, and the people would suffer more. The Secretary only smiled, and in the course of a couple of months the dewan of the zamindar in the Jessore district was appointed an Honorary Magistrate. But the administration of justice by Honorary Magistrates will not produce the results which can be yielded in a society by Self-Government and the enforcement of internal discipline.

43. The Sanjivani, of the 18th May, entertains a good deal of misgiving about the outcome of the Royal Commission ap-The Royal Commission. pointed to enquire into the expenditure of India. The Members of the Commission are almost all English or Anglo-Indian officials who will naturally enter into the question of Indian finances with official prejudices and are therefore, not expected to hold an impartial inquiry. Mr. Curzon, a staunch advocate of the forward policy, and Sir Donald Stewart, late Commander-in-Chief of India are two of the Members of the Commission and they are not likely to recommend any curtailment of the Indian Military expenditure. The British people had to bear the cost of the Opium Commission, but the cost of the new Royal Commission will have to be borne by the Indian people who would not have grudged the expenditure had there been any likelihood of their deriving any permanent benefit from the measure.

In the opinion of the Bangavasi of the 18th May, the celebration of the birthday of a Sovereign is associated by the Celebration of royal birthdays. people of India with the feeding of the poor, the giving of alms and doing of acts of kindness to all living creatures. They are therefore, greatly disappointed to see the birthday of their Queen-Empress celebrated with nothing, but a shower of empty titles and useless expenditure of

powder and shot on the parade ground. The Dainik-o-Samachar Chandrika of the 23rd May regrets that no DAINIK-O-SAMACHAR Member of the Royal Commission recently appointed The Royal Commission of to enquire into the expenditure of India will come enquiry. out to examine witnesses in this country, nor will the Government of India be required to send any witness to England to give evidence. This is not as it should be. It may be against the Government's interest to help the Commission in examining witnesses from India, but it is the interest of the Indian people that such witnesses should be examined. The Government of India should be compelled to call Indian witnesses to be

SANJIVANI, May 18th, 1895.

BANGAVASI, May 18th, 1895.

CHANDRIKA, May 23rd, 1895.

Assam Papers.

examined by the Commission.

The following is taken verbatim from the Srihattavasi for the second fortnight of Baisakh: —

The Assamese in the Assam It is understood to be the policy of all Govern-Education Department. ments to employ local agency in the work of administration so far as practicable. The Assam Government subscribes to this policy and does not hesitate to avow it in public. Thus, in the Rules and Regulations made for the recruitment of the Executive Service, it has been expressly stated that preference will be given to the natives of Assam ceteris paribus. This policy has been so universally accepted and has worked so well that no one would now care to question its soundness.

One would therefore naturally expect that due regard had always been paid to the claims of the natives of Assam in filling up vacancies under their own Government. But if statistics were collected on this point, they would tell a different tale. To support our contention we purpose to-day to say a few words in regard to the Education Department.

It is notorious that this Department contains so few of the natives of the province. All the higher posts are filled up by non-Assamese. There is not a single native of Assam in the rank of Deputy Inspectors, and of the 11 headmasters only one is a man of the province and the public remembers the fuss that was made about his appointment.

One is at a loss to account for this strange phenomenon. It may probably be urged that at the time when these appointments were made the Province could not supply men qualified to hold such responsible posts. The argument no doubt, seems plausible at first sight, but a moment's thought would convince the impartial mind that it has not a leg to stand on. Can it be that the province which could supply Extra-Assistant Commissioners and Munsifs by dozens could not supply men for the Department of Education? No; the reason is to be sought elsewhere. Once placed in a substantial position in an office, the stranger

SRIHATTAVASI, Second Fortnight of Baisakh, 1302B.S.

spares no pains to plant a colony of his own. He gets his own men as opportunities serve. Suppose a vacancy occurs in the Education Department. The news will be flashed across miles of distance, but the nearest neighbour shall be studiously kept in the dark, and by the time he comes to know of it, it shall have been filled up. But if the appointment is at all advertised it will not make much difference. The Head Assistant has to receive applications, hunt up precedents, make notes on them and put them up. He may suppress one, keep back another until the post has been disposed of. The Head Assistant can thus

influence the nomination in a variety of ways.

Our schools are for the most part manned by people hailing from a certain well-known quarter. We have no higher teachers except one or two, and it is only the under teachers who would raise the proportion of the natives to the foreigners to a certain percentage. Nephews and sons-in-law are pitchforked over the head of others in defiance of justice and decency. Nor have they any pretensions to academical distinctions. One may be an "Entrance fail," another may for his superb dullness, have his bone of education broken by a lusty kick from a John Bull. But what then? These revellers "in the realm of nonsense absolute" have a sure asylum in the indefatigable patronage of the arch nepotist.

A slightly different policy is adopted in the case of those who cannot claim any relationship. If candidates for higher posts they must be graduates. Given this, the rest will follow as a matter of course. They will be lauded to the skies; songs will be sung in their praise and the small knowledge that they may possess will be made to assume dimensions that might well make the best scholar of the day sigh in despair. The terra sancta abnormally prolific in children casts them broadcast over all known regions and a cry raised here is echoed in all quarters with a certainty and vigour which remind one of those

hideous cries which often disturb the growing calm of the night.

We will not descend to particulars now. We shall not, however, occasion require.

We shall probably be accused of undue partiality, but that this feeling is

shared by all will be evident from the following:-

A friend of ours happens to be a teacher in certain Government High School. A gentleman of Calcutta who now occupies a distinguised position once remarked to us that our friend must be a native of the terra sancta. On being told that he belonged to Assam he exclaimed: "how could he then get the appointment."

This feeling of surprise is perfectly natural in view of the actual state of things prevailing in the Education Department. We will stop here to-day.

CHUNDER NATH BOSE,

Bengali Translator.

Bengali Translator's Office, The 25th May 1895.